

MEETING OF THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA

UNSAFE HEARING BOARD

MARCH 3, 2015

5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The Unsafe Hearing Board of the City of Rushville met on the above date and time at 270 West 15th Street, Rushville, Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Board members, Gary Cameron, Ron Jarman, and Dr. John Williams answered roll call. Member, Darrin McGowan was not present. Also present was City Attorney, Julie Newhouse.

PUBLIC HEARING 127 West 7th Street – Mayor Pavey opened the meeting for a public hearing in regard to 127 West 7th Street. Chief Jenkins said this property is owned by Kathy Bussberg. There is an issue with a tree, trash, etc. The engineer report indicated that it was not viable to rehabilitate. Notice was sent to the owner that the structure was to be removed within 10 days from Feb 7th, which was the date the owner signed for the certified mail. Jenkins stated that he has not heard from the owner. The notice stated that the structure was to be removed and that the City would hold a hearing on today's date. Williams made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Jarman seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

MINUTES: Cameron made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015 as presented. Jarman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **1226 S Baker Street** – Chief Jenkins showed pictures that were taken of the property today. Jenkins said after the last meeting notice was received by the owner on February 9th. Said notice informed Mohler that the fine was increased and discussion would be held at this meeting.

Steve Mohler appeared before the Board and stated that he has been working to clean up the property since December. He said when the fine was implemented the ground was frozen, which prohibited him from doing a lot of the clean-up. He said he is working when he can get things removed from the frozen ground. He said the fines are outrageous and unfair. He said he understands that he is behind, but that is due to the weather. He asked to have the fines removed and stated that he will get the property cleaned up. He said he has driven through town and saw many other properties that

are in very bad shape and feels like he is being harassed. He said the City is not trying to work with him, and there are several properties worse than his.

Pavey said we are trying to get the City cleaned up. He said when people are told they need to clean up their property most of them think they are being picked on or harassed. Pavey told Mohler that we **HAVE** to see the effort on his part.

Mohler said to drive down the driveway and you will see that he is working on it. Mohler said he didn't know why the notice was not given until the weather turned cold. He said due to his health he can't work outside in the very cold weather

Jenkins said the initial notice was sent Sept 29th, but returned undeliverable. The Sheriff Department delivered the notice on October 29th.

Cameron made a motion to freeze the fines as of today and give Mohler an additional 30 days from today. Mohler should appear at the next meeting when the Board will readdress the situation. Jarman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mohler said that 2 vehicles were towed illegally and that he will file charges if fines are not dropped completely.

Pavey said we need to see significant change before fines are dropped. He explained to Mohler that if the Board sees a significant effort in the clean-up then they may determine if they will drop the fines.

2. **Adoption of Demolition Guidelines** – Cameron said he has reviewed the guidelines and will discuss with Wakefield.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **BEP 127 West 7th Street** – After short discussion Williams made a motion to tear down the property and to assess all liens against the property. Jarman seconded the motion. Cameron abstained from the vote.
2. **BEP Trailer – VanSickle** – Pavey said he would like to know how the BEP program handles trailers and if trailers can fill in vacant slots.

ADJOURN: There was no further business to come before the Board; Williams made a motion to adjourn. Jarman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.